



NATIONAL  
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# WEATHER & CROPS



**Week Ending: October 17, 2010**

**Number: 32**

**Released: October 18, 2010**

## WEATHER CONDITIONS AND CROP SUMMARY FOR WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 17, 2010

Welcomed rains throughout the state enhanced topsoil moisture in some areas. Days suitable for fieldwork were 5.5. Barley, wheat and cover crop planting continued along with field prep, soil sampling and lime spreading. Soybean harvest continued with below average to average yields in most areas. Some pods appear to be very small and the beans are small as well. Cotton and peanut harvest continued. Producers in some areas continue to purchase seed and fertilizer for 2011.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT				
Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
September 19, 2010	59	31	10	0
September 26, 2010	56	34	10	0
October 3, 2010	4	18	55	23
October 10, 2010	6	27	63	4
October 17, 2010	6	27	65	2

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CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pasture	14	32	38	16	0
Livestock	2	10	30	47	11
Soybeans	14	25	50	10	1
Peanuts	36	40	22	2	0
Cotton	19	29	35	17	0
Apples, All	0	40	53	7	0

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT – WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Corn Harvested for Grain	92	87	68	75
Soybeans Dropping Leaves	92	87	79	84
Soybeans Harvested	27	14	10	16
Winter Wheat Seeded	27	23	23	21
Winter Wheat Emerged	9	8	7	4
Barley Seeded	70	50	65	63
Flue-cured Tobacco Harvested	85	83	93	91
Peanuts Dug	47	27	70	68
Peanuts Combined	20	12	45	50
Cotton Bolls Opening	97	93	89	97
Cotton Harvested	44	30	24	31
Fall Apples Harvested	74	69	91	88
Winter Apples Harvested	70	65	67	49
Oats for Grain Seeded	60	54	48	23

## REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY

Comments are based on comments reported by extension agents, farmers, commodity specialists, and other knowledgeable individuals.

### VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 17, 2010

City	Temperature						Growing degree days (modified base 50)		Precipitation				
	Avg. max.	Avg. min.	High max.	Low min.	Avg.	Avg. dep. from normal *	Mar. 1 to Oct 16	Mar. 1 to Oct 16 Normal	Last Week	Since Sept 1	Sept 1 dep. from normal *	Jan. 1 to date	Jan. 1 dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	74	45	85	38	60	2	4138	3724	1.60	7.04	1.27	39.31	3.90
Norfolk	75	55	87	48	65	2	4836	4166	3.70	13.45	7.53	46.28	8.04
Richmond	76	52	88	44	64	4	4733	4036	8.50	7.56	1.66	30.28	-5.76
Roanoke	74	52	85	46	63	5	4355	NA	3.30	7.48	1.94	36.83	1.76
Wash/Dulles	72	49	86	43	61	4	4255	NA	9.60	7.79	2.23	34.30	0.34

\* Normal based on 1971-2000 data. Source: NCEP/NOAA Climate Prediction Center <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>. Source: USDA, NASS, Virginia Field Office.

### NORTHERN

#### FREDERICK (Jeanette R. Smith)

Still in Drought conditions, had a little shower this week.

### WESTERN

#### AUGUSTA (Tom Stanley)

Rain showers Thursday morning helped maintain topsoil moisture but amounted to less than .3 of an inch for most of Augusta County. Harvesting and fall plantings progressed rapidly. Field activities related to pumpkins and other fall ornamentals were important for some farms this week.

#### ROCKBRIDGE (Tom Stanley)

A fast moving low pressure system brought .4 to 1 inch of rain to Rockbridge County Thursday morning; helping pasture conditions and newly seeded small grains but interrupting some harvesting and planting activities. Most field work resumed by Friday afternoon.

### CENTRAL

#### APPOMATTOX (Bruce Jones)

Rain last week will aid germination of the small grains planted. Soybean harvest resumed over the weekend with all fields now starting to yellow and drop leaves.

#### CAROLINE (McGann Saphir)

Grain farmers are still planting cover crops and small grains and harvesting soybeans. Yields have been better than

### Caroline continued.

expected. Many are in the 30-40 bushels/acre range. Vegetable farmers are cleaning up raised beds and plastic from summer crops and planting cover crops. Pumpkins, winter squash and greens are still coming in. Soil moisture conditions are adequate, but continued weekly rains are a boon.

### EASTERN

#### ESSEX (Keith Balderson)

A good general rainfall on Wednesday kept topsoil moisture conditions in very good shape which should aid in good small grain emergence. Soybean harvest continued at a good pace. Yields continue to be quite variable, but generally below average.

#### MIDDLESEX (David Moore)

More rain fell this week. Barley, wheat and cover crop planting continues, as does, field prep, soil sampling and lime spreading. Some corn still to be harvested. Soybean yields have turned out to be about average in a lot of places while being considerably below average in others. Folks are taking advantage of price rallies for corn, wheat, and soybeans. Producers will be making seed and fertilizer purchase decisions for 2011 soon.

### SOUTHWESTERN

#### SCOTT (Scott Jerrell)

Light frost was noted this weekend. Leaves appear to have peaked.

## REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY (continued)

Comments are based on comments reported by extension agents, farmers, commodity specialists, and other knowledgeable individuals.

### SOUTHEASTERN

#### **SOUTHAMPTON (John Rudy)**

Cotton and peanut harvests continued. Some soybeans are being harvested. Pods are very small and the beans are also small. Yields of all crops are diminished. Pastures are still in bad shape and coming back slowly.

#### **SURRY (Glenn Slade)**

Harvest of all crops well under way. Due to extreme summer drought and heat yields are below average. Corn 5-60 bushels/acre, Cotton 250-500 lbs/acre, Peanuts 400-2000 lbs/acre, and Soybeans 10-20 bushels/acre. Recent rains provided moisture to begin small grain seeding.

#### **SUSSEX (Kelvin Wells, Sussex ANR Agent)**

About an inch of rain fell over our area this week putting an end to field work. Tobacco, cotton, peanut and soybean harvests are in full swing along with planting of cover-crop and small grains.



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